

Westervelt House
Tenafly, Bergen County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

The Westervelt House
Tenafly Avenue and Westervelt Road
Tenafly, Bergen County, New Jersey

Owner: Mr. R. M. Sulzer
66 Bank Street
New York City

Date of Erection: Stone wing about 1745; main unit
about 1798; frame wing 1825

Architect:

Builder: Stone wing Roelof Westervelt; main unit
Daniel Westervelt; frame wing Peter Westervelt

Present Condition: Fair

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - Rough faced
fieldstone

Exterior walls - Original
wing rough dressed stone,
frame gables; main unit
dressed red sandstone, frame
gables; north wing frame
construction, wide clap-
boards

Interior walls - plaster

Floors pine planks on hand
hewn oak beams

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - gambrel on main unit,
pitch on wings

Historical Data:

Roelof Westervelt, grandfather of the builder of the original wing, came to America with his parents Lubbert and Gessie Van Westervelt in 1662. In 1695 he with nine others bought from the proprietors for one hundred pounds some thousands of acres between the Hudson and Overpeck. Roelof got the northern section, a triangular tract of land between the branches of Overpeck Creek northwards to the head of Tenakill Brook. It is on this tract that his grandson Roelof built.

Roelof was born in 1723 and died in 1800. He married about 1745 and probably built the older wing of the house at this time. The property descended from Roelof to his elder son Douwe Westervelt. One of Douwe's children was Daniel, born in 1779 and died in 1877, who built the main stone house about 1798. His son Peter was born in 1806 and died in 1885. He built the frame wing on the north end of the house in 1825. His younger son, Charles P. Westervelt, sold the homestead in 1923 to R. M. Sulzer. It has remained in Mr. Sulzer's hands except for a brief period in 1928-1934 when Winifred Mitchell of Tonafly held the title.

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